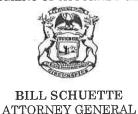
STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, Michigan 48909

November 13, 2014

Re: House Bills 5839, 5840, 5841 & 5842

Dear Senator Marleau and Members of the Senate Policy Committee,

The practice of medicine is noble profession. People go to their physicians with complete trust, confidence, and faith that the doctors treating them will do all within their knowledge and power to make them well. Tragically some lost their lives because of trust in greedy, unscrupulous individuals.

Dr. Farid Fata is a hematologist-oncologist who had offices in Clarkston, Bloomfield Hills, Lapeer, Sterling Heights, Troy and Oak Park. He pled guilty to an array of major criminal offenses brought against him as a result of administering unnecessary anticancer drugs and filing fraudulent Medicare claims.

Currently a physician engaged in similar practices faces a five-year license revocation with the ability to petition the Board of Medicine for a license reinstatement. Under House Bills 5839, 5840, 5841 and 5842 the Board could permanently revoke a physician's license when the physician has "engaged in a pattern of intentional acts of fraud or deceit resulting in personal financial gain to the licensee or registrant and harm to the health of patients under the licensee's or registrant's care."

Sadly, there is no legislation that can be written to bring back a lost loved one, or restore all that has been taken from these victims. However, passing this legislation will allow Michigan to permanently shut down physicians who trade the value of a human life for the value of material belongings.

Sincerely,

Ilan Cropsey

Director of Legislative Relations

Dear Honorable Members of Health Care Policy Committee

My father was a patient of Dr. Farid Fata from 2010 to 2012.

My father was a well-respected pathologist, the doctor's doctor, who was faced with choosing an oncologist the day he learned the pain he'd been having in his shoulder was a tumor detected by an MRI his orthopedic surgeon had ordered.

He chose Fata for his impressive credentials, in particular his work at the prestigious Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. My father had also seen Fata present cases at the Tumor Board, regular educational meetings where physicians discuss individual cases. Fata also seemed like a kind and gentle person, something we heard over and over.

As my father had always done with himself and our family, he took an active role in his care, reviewing his own labs and going over any X-rays and CT scans with the radiologists in person. He also reviewed his own biopsy slide with his former pathology colleagues.

His diagnosis was squamous cell carcinoma. Because it had gone to the bone, it was stage four.

It was a strange case, however, in that we never found evidence of more cancer in his body, including no primary source. It was deemed an "unknown primary" with the likelihood it came from his lung. He was actually feeling quite good other than the sore shoulder.

He received radiation for a couple of weeks to the shoulder, which apparently eradicated the tumor there.

Meanwhile, despite having no tumor or mass to watch, Fata told my father "You have to fight" and that he had a patient older than my father, an 85-year-old man, who had the same cancer and whom Fata had gotten into remission.

We started out on a normal protocol — Taxotere and Carboplatin. A couple of months later my dad had a routine CT scan that revealed a new, small nodule. Everyone agreed without a biopsy there was no way to know if it was cancer or nothing at all. It was very possible it was nothing at all.

Yet, Fata decided my father immediately needed to go on a very hard second line chemo protocol, the powerful Gemzar plus Navelbine, a drug Fata liked for its widespread use in Europe.

These drugs were too much for my father, landing him in the hospital more than once for blood transfusions. My father, now sleeping more and more, said many times that he needed to guit chemo but Fata always seemed to talk us into it.

I say us because by now I was pretty much a full time caregiver and advocate for both my parents simultaneously. (My mother also had some serious health issues and hospitalizations.) I was so well-versed, however, in their conditions, medications and potential complications that health professionals constantly assumed I was a doctor or nurse myself. And still this happened to us.

But my father was growing tired, as anyone who feels sick does, and I was increasingly uncomfortable with Fata so I took my dad for a second opinion with the University of Michigan (where we discovered Fata's office did not send over my father's complete records).

The doctor there said this second line chemo protocol Fata had my father on was insane. He said they would "never" have put an older person, who was also on dialysis, on that, especially since my dad had been feeling quite good.

I would ask my dad: "Do you feel like you're on a train and you can't get off?" I know I did. My father, never one to put blind faith into anyone, was getting weary and I was afraid what would happen if we quit. Neither of us was making a decision, though we tried to stop the chemo, ideally with Fata's support.

Fata did not make it easy. He was a fear-monger. When we asked about trying a chemo holiday for a month or two (something many of my dad's colleagues suggested) Fata would say that was not possible, that he could not take off any more than a week or two at most.

Fata also threatened more than once that if my dad quit doing chemo, he would have to sign on to hospice, and that hospice would make him stop dialyzing (my father did home dialysis and was doing quit well at the time).

That was not true, we later learned. I even thought at the time it seemed bizarre — like, "Who are the chemo police who are going to make my dad do hospice and stop dialysis?"

But hope and fear are powerful motivators, especially in the face of cancer, especially with a doctor who impels you to fight.

Eventually my father refused to take any more Gemzar and just then Fata came to the infusion room to tell him that this new therapy, Erbitux, with fewer side effects, was just approved for lung cancer. He put him that with a supposedly lowered dose of the Navelbine.

This therapy was more tolerable but still caused weakness and side effects, and we continued to spend countless hours in his clinic at various appointments, robbing us of time to do other things.

By spring 2011, my dad, always tired and weak, finally got off the "chemo train" when he was hospitalized for questionable pneumonia. It was a blessing in disguise.

Nevertheless, we stayed with Fata to continue injections of Zometa and XGeva (named in the federal complaint), which support bone in patients whose cancer has gone to the bone.

As we discovered later, after the chemo had weakened my dad's teeth to the point he developed an abscess, an oral surgeon refused to touch my father because of the high chance my dad could have "osteonecrosis" of the jaw with the slightest dental work. Meaning: so much as pulling a tooth or filling a cavity could cause his jaw to start melting away like wet plaster, a side effect of this drug.

So my father lived with this quality-of-life-limiting tooth pain and constant use of antibiotic treatments.

Fata over-treated my father. He wantonly destroyed the health my father had been enjoying before starting chemo, and robbed us of precious quality time we could have enjoyed as a family. All to enrich himself.

In the end, my father did not die of cancer. He died when he quit doing hemodialysis. He decided to let go soon after we lost my mother.

Like many families and patients, I look back and wonder how this could have happened to us. More than once I caught Fata nodding off in our monthly appointments to which he'd say he was getting over a virus. Too often I ran into him in the hospital in the wee hours, long after the other docs had made their rounds. He just seemed uninvolved, but I'd heard not to expect too much from any oncologist as they are all overwhelmed.

I think, if this could happen to a smart and involved doctor with a vigilant and committed caregiver/advocate, how does anyone stand a chance?

I am haunted by the fact that the state took zero action in 2010 when RN Angela Swanteck filed her complaint about Fata's practice with LARA. This was right before we started seeing Fata.

I hope all these tragedies we've all suffered — some more horrific than others — can at least have some good come of them in the form of legislation that prevents another Fata from staying in practice. This never should have happened, certainly after the first whistle was blown.

Thank you,

Ellen Piligian Birmingham, MI Donna R. Martin 14146 Taylor Rd Millington, MI 48416

I am Donna R. Martin. My mother is Patricia Cansler she was a patient of Fata. Her ent Dr did a lymph node biopsy on her and told us it was cancer (in her lymph nodes) and he sent her to Fata and she got in to see him the same day at his Clarkston office on Sept. 29, 2009. He misdiagnosed her with stage 4 non-hodgekins lymphoma which is worse than her correct diagnosis of SLL (small lymphocytic leukemia). She went through over 4 months of several chemo treatments (I don't recall them now, their in her chart) and then he put her on a 2 year maintenance of Rituxin (sp?). She was way overmedicated with both of them. He also did 3-4 bone marrow biopsies on her in his Clarkston office that we now know she didn't need. And she had more pet scans than she needed. We trusted him. He told us she was in remission and would be cured in 5 years which is today, Sept 29, 2014. Her current cancer dr has informed us that she won't be cured that it usually comes back after 2-3 years of being in remission. This is where she is now and the lymph nodes have already started getting a little bigger this year, her current cancer dr is ordering a ct scan and watching them and her if they start hurting her. If they do, she will begin chemo. Her dr has told us the cancer she has is non-aggressive, not deadly, and is one of the easier ones to treat.

That Fata treated her all wrong (and all the other patients he had too) just so that he received a lot of money from Medicare (which she is on) has caused her to still not trust doctors, not even counselors. The overmedications she received from him has changed her some physically. Every time she bends over even a little she gets very dizzy, she was doing this even while she was going through the chemo. She has virtually no patience, before he treated her she had a lot of patience. There is still nights that she wakes up and can't go back to sleep and this can last sometimes for several weeks or longer. After Fata got arrested she told us what all he did to her (and all the other patients he had) is like being in a horror movie and to this day she is feeling this way. So I hope the state also understand what she (and all the other patients he had) is continuing to go through mentally as well.

What I don't understand is why the state did nothing to stop Fata, especially since it was warned about how he was having chemo medications administered incorrectly in his patients. I hear the state now has several bills being discussed tomorrow (Sept. 30, 2014) that it has written to be enacted as laws if passed. They should have already been laws a long time ago. Why did the state not consider before now laws to protect patients from a doctor that would harm even kill patients for monetary gain? To me, it is an inexcusable oversight. On the other hand though, I am glad that the state has finally acknowledged that these laws need to be enacted soon. It is my hope that these laws should/will prevent any more patients and their families suffering from a doctor (Fata isn't a doctor anymore, and we don't recognize him as such) as we all have and still are. Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely.

Donna R. Martin

Good morning ladies and gentleman. Most of you may have heard of Fata's victims. I would like to take a few moments to properly introduce you to one of his victims...My Mother, Joan Donohue. I want you to know how she LIVED.

My Mother lived for 76 years, raised 3 children, worked up till the time of her diagnosis and cared for my father who was ill for many years, till his death in 2005. Her neighbors became her friends...in her words, she never had a bad neighbor. Her friends became lifelong friends. She was a devoted Wife, Mother, and Grandmother. Her love for her family was never ending. Each child, grandchild and great grandchild shared a deep and personal relationship with her. This relationship was and still is, the foundation of their life.

My Mom had a strong faith and a passion for her Christian values. As a faithful servant, she coordinated religious conferences, retreats, healing ministries, parish missions and local prayer groups. She was an amazing woman whose faith provided her with perseverance and courage in life's more challenging times. Even during the year that she was a patient of Fata's, she was always their to comfort others and pray for them.

My Mom was also very involved in social and political issues. She was a strong supporter of the rights of the unborn, the elderly and the disabled and worked tirelessly advocating on their behalf. If there was a job that needed to be done, Joan Donohue was the person to call. She believed in the importance of actively participating in our political process and worked in local precincts on election day every year. She was even selected to greet President George Bush Sr. on a visit the then President made to Michigan. And like her faith, she wore her patriotism on her sleeve. The only person I know with both an American flag scarf and a red, white and blue elephant scarf which she proudly wore on all the appropriate occasions.

She was also an example of living a healthy lifestyle...ate organically, never used a microwave and supplemented her diet with vitamins, herbs and exercise. So again she did all the "right" and proactive things, but she died a HORRIFIC DEATH September 28th 2010...exactly 1 year after her cancer diagnosis and treatments with Fata began. Having been by my grandparents bedside during their deaths, which had been peaceful end of lives, I had experienced death. But nothing had prepared me for the inhumane suffering and torture of her final days of life and her unspeakable death. I spent 3 years agonizing over the choices that were made with her care and what had gone so horribly wrong.

Then August 2013, Fata's arrest reopened this gaping wound with the missing pieces...SHE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE IN THIS BATTLE, AS SHE WAS BEING POISENED AND TOTURED FOR PERSONAL GREED. Even more heartbreaking was to learn that during the course of her treatment, an oncology nurse had reported Fata to the State of Michigan for administering chemo, neulasta and hydration improperly and that he was harming patients. All allegations that he has now plead guilty to. Had the state of Michigan done a proper investigation, this fraudulent and torturous care would have been stopped. My Mother deserved much better than this...as did all of his patients who continued in his care because they believed that he was a doctor that was accredited and highly regarded expert in his field.

My Mother lived with me for the year she underwent treatment because we were going to do everything that we could to get her well. I researched for countless hours and questioned Fata's protocol with my Mother on many occasions. I questioned "why" she needed to continue chemotherapy after she was declared to be "a miracle in remission" by him. He stated that she had a very aggressive cancer that would become untreatable if she stopped chemo and then he wouldn't be able to save her. I now know, he told this to many patients. He diagnosed my Mom with triple negative breast cancer. Sadly, I now know that the chemotherapy drug he used during the last month of her life, wasn't even a drug used for breast cancer...he had her on a 24 hour drip of a drug used for patients with colon cancer. Several times when I had researched and questioned his treatment, he asked if I had fellowshipped at Sloan Kettering like he had...which of course I hadn't, so a I deferred to the Doctor. The title of Doctor allowed him to intimidate me. In a sad twist of irony, at this same time, Angela was reporting him to the State of Michigan to stop him from harming patients. She reported him in April 2010, before my mothers treatment went from bad to worse.

I also believe that other doctors were aware and turned their heads in the name of greed. I know that he was reported to the head of oncology at St Joes hospital, the hospital where my Mother went several times during that year, and nothing was done. Not to mention the fluid biopsy that "disappeared" from that same hospital. Let's not forget the doctor that headed up the medical review board for our own State. I suspect that greed, not just cronyism, caused him to turn a blind eye. The Title of Dr. carries with it someone that you need to trust with your care more so than any other profession, so when they have violated this trust and have failed in their oath, they no longer deserve this title of trust and distinction.

I implore the State of Michigan adopt this bill, but not to stop there. LARA and the investigation process need to be fixed, starting with the release of what did or did not take place during their alleged investigation into the practices of Farid Fata. Fata has now admitted his guilt, so using the excuse that no complaint was issued by the State in regards to Angela's allegation, no longer stands...He is a guilty man...guilty of Angela's allegations, whot no longer deserves the title of doctor or the protection of privacy regarding any and all allegations that were made to the State of Michigan. I know that my Mother would have stood up for you, if your life had been so tragically violated.

I would like to thank Rep Jeff Farrington for the empathy and compassion he has shown the "victims of Fata" group, when we felt like nobody cared. God Bless You! I beg for each of you, to give hope to my mother's grandchildren, who struggle daily with the unthinkable and preventable loss that has so devastated all of us. Please don't let all the years that my Mother inspired them with her faith and her belief in our country give way to the cynicism that we feel today. Do not let her death, and all the dearly loved victims death's be in vain... you were elected to serve and protect.

Thank you

My husband Richard Sawgle was murdered by the so called Dr. Fata in Sept. 2009. My husband was told by this evil man that he could help him by being treated with a chemo type medicine called Vidasia that would be administrated by IV for a week at a time with a couple of weeks in between treatments for several months. My husband supposedly had a low blood count and was diagnosed with Myelodysplasia, a blood disorder that could lead to Leukemia. He agreed to the treatments after Fata explained that this was the treatment for his disorder and that he had had very good results with this medicine.

The first treatment was on a Monday, which he drove himself to. He was very sick after that treatment and did drive himself to the next treatment. He was deathly sick that second night and was going to quit the treatments. After calling Fata's office we were told to come in to talk with Fata. He assured us that this was a necessary treatment and he would give meds to help with the sickness. He said he would give meds for all the nausea and that Richard had to have another treatment. That night was a nightmare. Having to take Richard to emergency to be told that he had had a heart attack and put on life support! They kept him on life support for 10 days before telling us that there was nothing more they could do for him. After 3 treatments, and life support for 10 days my husband was gone. If we had seen any other doctor, my husband would likely still be here!! I have been told by 2 doctors that with what my husband had, the treatment would have been to watch and observe before giving such an aggressive treatment. His man is pure evil. I told him in the hospital that my husband was fine until we met him, He said, "You blame me, this isn't my fault"!! He knew exactly what he had done. My husband and I planned on going to India in a couple of weeks, we certainly wouldn't have planned a trip if he had been too sick to go. He was fine, except for feeling a little run down. Until we had the unfortunate meeting of Fata our lives were pretty much normal. Fata took my husband of 44 years who was only 65 years old, my son's father and my grandson's Papa away from us because of his uncaring, sadistic, greedy, evil ways. He deserves to rot in prison for LIFE, with the same treatments that he gave every one else. He has ruined and taken away so many lives that he deserves no less that what the inflicted on others.

Laws need to be changed to prevent this from happening to others. Please put yourselves in our positions, and think of your wife, husband, father, mother, child imagine them being so sick that they can't get up off the floor, vomiting so much they can't lift their head up off of a pillow, not having the strength to get dressed because of drugs that have poured into their bodies by some one whom they trusted. This man did all this intentionally for a nice house, a big car, nice clothes, money in the bank. Please don't let this happen to others.

Thank you,

Richard Sawgle's widow,

Diane Sawgle

1466 W. Sutton Rd. Metamora, Michigan 48455 September 26, 2014

I strongly support legislation which revokes the license to practice medicine of any doctor or medical practitioner convicted of medical malpractice or medical fraud. I am surprised that the removal of license is not an automatic result of such action.

It is extremely imperative that reports filed with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) be dealt with in a timely, equitable, and comprehensive manner. This agency appears to be unable to deal with the volume and severity of reports filed concerning cases of medical wrongdoing. The medical malpractice that has taken place in the oncology practice of Dr. Farid Fata would have been halted years ago had the serious complaint formally filed by oncology nurse, Angela Swantek, been investigated competently at that time. I would never have had the misfortune to be a patient of his practice for years.

As a Michigan school teacher, I was required by law to contact Protective Services (DHS) if I had any indication or reason to suspect child abuse or neglect. I find it appalling that it is not a legal requirement that suspected cases of medical mistreatment or fraud be likewise reported to a responsible state authority by members of the medical profession. Our most vulnerable, fragile, and ill patients deserve the same protection as our young children.

This case is going to cost the federal and state government millions in dollars and years of time to resolve. It has cost Medicare and Medicaid millions of dollars at a time that this country is undergoing traumatic and costly change in the funding of our medical health care system. It has cost individual patients and their families untold hours of pain and worry. It has cost many patients their lives.

Jane B. Schade

My Victim's Impact Statement (from Dale)

Since my discovery (8 Aug 2013) of receiving prolonged over treatments (78 cycles too much, and/or 1 year and 3 months) with chemotherapy and numerous other toxic unnecessary infusions (zommeta, iron shots, neulasta, rixuxan, and feraheme) administered by Dr. Fata, which resulted me to be admitted into the Crittenton Hospital numerous times throughout year 2011. These unnecessary treatments not only raised my white blood cells to a triple count than the normal count, but caused my body to swell/balloon up to an unrecognizable state. The nurses at Crittenton later told me that I was actually "o-ding from toxic treatments ". When all along, my cancer was gone (eradicated on shown on CT-Scan dated, 04 Jan 2011) within 3 1/2 months of treatment, since my diagnosis 29 Sep 2010. As I remember back, to my first day (4 Oct 2010) of receiving a combined treatment of chemotherapy and radiation. Dr. Fata provided a written script for my work, requesting that I take a year leave from work, indicating the treatments will be aggressive and overwhelming causing me to become very fatigue, weak, sleepy, confused, anxiety and painful, but better yet he says.... "fill out disability papers and retire". So as requested by Dr. Fata, I submitted my papers in for disability retirement. I worked for the US Army-tank Automotive Command since I was 16 years old, they schooled me and I received my degree and became a Buyer (Contract Specialist) for the government of 33 years that paid very well and I had no intentions of leaving my position 6 years earlier than planned, but now I'm collecting disability. Since Dr. Fata's arrest (06 Aug 2013), I became both mentally and financially crippled having to file Chapter 13 (Case # 14-42904, BOC Law Firm, Mr. Orlow @ 248-584-2100). Medically, I have developed several lesions (tiny ulcers) in my stomach due to taking too many IBuprofens and Ketoprofen for my everyday migraines and sore bones and joints not allowing me to sleep at night. My mind is not clear, confused at many times, loss of memory, temper-mental, I have unexplained coughing spells causing me to develop a small hernia in my esophagus, I'm withdrawn from society and I don't trust doctors at all. My eyesight has been damaged - blurred vision, I can't see without wearing glasses, my teeth are becoming loose, and gums are painfully sore and inflamed. I just want me back. I live in fear every day, unknowingly what organs will eventually shut down due to the prolonged over treatments. I look above and see black clouds that continue to follow me, but strangely and terrible it may sound, I actually pray for Dr. Fata that our good Lord will forgive him. As I continue to live each day in fear......, I pray that God will heal all of us "mentally and physically" quickly, so that we can move forward and put this journey behind us.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to pass and support the bill before you today. I have a very personal and strong sentiment on how important this is to the people here in Michigan. My mom, Eleanore Morrow was a patient of Farid Fata. She was under his care for 9 months until she died.

My mom was the pillar of strength to our family, her untimely death left a hole so deep in our heart, we don't ever feel it will heal. The news that the doctor, who told all of us her cancer was treatable, but instead deliberately caused her death for profit has been emotionally unbearable as we continue to grieve and mourn the emptiness in our lives.

My mom did not see Fata until September 2011, to find out that a complaint was filed against him in 2010 and nothing was done leaves me bewildered, my mom may still be alive if someone would've followed through with that complaint.

I understand that the bill is a good step that will help patients, but I feel strongly that "follow through" has to be done as soon as a complaint or trail hits the desks of those in charge. This horrific ordeal cannot be allowed to happen again.

We as a family are fearful of going to doctors, our level of trust has been shattered. If something like this is in place, gradually we can start to heal and regain our trust for the health care profession. Pass and support this bill in memory of all the lives that have been lost and for all the lives that may be saved.

Thank you, Becky Umscheid Hello,

My name is Tonya Woods and I was referred to Dr. Fata by my primary care physician of 20+ years, Dr. Todd Lockwitz, who was also Dr. Fata's patient, because my iron levels were dangerously low after several treatment attempts with iron pills prescribed by Dr. Lockwitz. I wasn't sleeping at night and always felt tired however I assumed it was due to my high stress job which I held during this period.

After my first visit with Dr. Fata, he stated that I had low iron deficiency anemia and that my body couldn't hold onto iron taken orally therefore I had to be treated with iron infusions. Per Dr. Fata because my levels were so low, I had to receive 2 infusions a week for up to 2 weeks then he would reevaluate my situation. Dr. Fata wrote me a prescription for the infusions, which I filled at a local pharmacy and took into Dr. Fata's office. My insurance was billed \$3,000 per infusion.

I never felt any difference after receiving the infusions which I received on different frequencies over the years of treatments (bi-weekly, monthly, bi-annually etc.), but Dr. Fata said it takes time since my level was so low. In January of the following year, Dr. Fata said I no longer had to take infusions because iron shots were now available in a higher dosage. The shots were available in his office so he didn't have to write me a pharmacy prescription. Again, he had me double up on the shots because my levels were still dangerously low and my blood platelet level kept dropping.

While being treated over the years with iron infusions and/or shots yet never feeling any improvement, my blood pressure was elevated, I was sleep deprived and my cognitive skills diminished. It was a struggle to stay awake and get out of bed every day and eventually it took a toll wherein I began to make mistakes at work and was literally a walking zombie.

I will never forget on one follow-up office visit, I signed in at the desk and took a seat awaiting a callback when the receptionist said "Miss Woods, you can go on back in the treatment area for your chemo". When I told her I was there for an office appointment, she assured me that the orders written on my file by Dr. Fata said I was to receive chemo. Of course I was shocked because I hadn't even been told that I had cancer! As I walked slowly into the treatment area looking for a vacant recliner to sit in, I couldn't believe that my latest blood tests results had revealed cancer or that this was the way I was going to be told of the diagnosis. When the nurse came over to me, I explained to her what had occurred and she told me if "Dr" prescribed it then it was necessary. Her concern was more that I didn't deserve to find out that way so she went to see if she could find Dr. Fata to come and speak with me. Thankfully, when she returned she said that there had been a mistake and escorted me to one of the offices to wait for Dr. Fata. Dr. Fata apologized profusely and begged me to forgive the error. It was the longest time he had ever spent with me during an office visit. Even as he escorted me out, he told the billing person this visit would be no charge and the office staff waited until he had left and whispered how sorry they were that this had happened to me. It brings me to tears thinking of what could've happened that day if I hadn't spoken up even in the obvious state of shock that I was in.

Dr. Fata kept saying the shots were going to work but I just had to give it time. All the time, I complained to Dr. Lockwitz that I didn't feel any better and assumed that he and Dr. Fata were working together to treat me. Dr. Fata then concluded I was losing blood internally so sent me to have a colonoscopy which didn't reveal anything then when that tests didn't reveal anything I had to have a lower G.I. test which involved swallowing a large pill with a camera inside and drink water with electrolytes in the morning and wear a box which the images were transmitted to for 8 hours. I couldn't

take off work so I tried to limit my exposure since the box would light up with bright neon lights whenever the images were being transferred. Yet again, these tests did not reveal where or that I was bleeding internally.

My work continued to suffer to the point where I kept making mistakes, completing simple tasks took extremely long and I would have periods/blocks of time wherein I was in a daze. I was unaware until I came out of it and wondered what or how long I had been in it. I knew something wasn't right nor was it getting any better so I met with my Boss to see if I could work a reduced schedule. Unbeknownst to me, my Boss had already been reviewing my mistakes and was preparing to meet with me to see what was wrong and strongly suggest a medical leave so that I could focus 100% on getting better. She did state that had it been a pattern over the years, I would've been terminated. I deliberated about it but eventually had to go out on medical leave since I had to admit I was no longer capable of doing my job in the manner I had done it for 6 years.

While on medical leave, my primary care physician completed the necessary paperwork using information he had compiled as well as sporadic notes Dr. Fata sent however the insurance company only allowed me 2 weeks of paid leave based on the information submitted. Dr. Lockwitz filed an appeal over and over again and wouldn't release me to go back to work since I wasn't any better and was in jeopardy of being fired if I had gone back and the mistakes continued. But the insurance company said the information submitted wasn't sufficient to support me being off of work. As a result, I was on unpaid leave for almost a year! I used all of my savings trying to pay COBRA since my employer would only pay my medical premiums if I was on paid leave. Since I was trying to get better to go back to work, I had to continue my treatments assuming they were going to make me whole again. I borrowed money from my parents, sold material items and went without in an attempt to keep a roof over my head, a vehicle and pay my COBRA payments. I couldn't file for unemployment or assistance because technically I was still employed!

Meanwhile, Dr. Fata stated since the tests didn't reveal an internal blood loss, I would have to have a bone marrow biopsy and I cried after I left and begged my physician to please step in because I couldn't imagine the pain involved and the thought that it had come to this.

Dr. Lockwitz suggested I see a neurologist. I was shocked because I thought after 2-3 years of having these symptoms, he assumed I was crazy and imagining all of my symptoms but he assured me it was a necessary evil. I wanted to fight but honestly I was too exhausted to do so since staying awake for a hour at a time had become quite an effort by that time.

The neurologist ran a battery of tests on my first visit and stated afterwards that he suspected I had sleep apnea. My initial reaction was "Sure, something else is wrong me will the list ever end!" but I agreed to having a sleep study hoping that they could fix some of the things that were wrong with me if not all. The sleep study revealed I had severe sleep apnea and I had so many events per second that the Sleep Doctor was astonished I was able to function. I was prescribed a C-PAP machine and after months of using it, I began to sleep soundly and wake feeling rejuvenated and restored. Upon further research into sleep apnea, it showed that all of my issues were symptoms of sleep apnea however no one ever suggested or suspected it.

I was finally released to go back to work after almost a year of unpaid leave however I was laid off permanently 6 weeks later. I had been at my job for 7 years with good reviews until I began having

problems. I often wonder if I could've been diagnosed earlier what my life would be like now. Once unemployed I didn't have enough to pay my bills so I applied for food stamps for the first time in my life. I wanted very badly to tell my story but I feared potential employers would blacklist me or assume I had medical issues and not hire me. I used up all of my savings and had to take withdrawals from my retirement account and pay a hefty penalty just to get by yet it still wasn't enough.

To make matters even worse, Dr. Lockwitz suddenly left his practice January of 2013 per the letter we received via mail and I often wonder if he was working with Dr. Fata to mis-diagnose me and take me through a barrage of useless treatments for profit. I am thankful that I lived and didn't have blackouts while commuting to work but the emotional and financial impact it had on my life will be with me always. I am grateful to have finally found another job (although I had to take a paycut) and I'm working on restoring my credit, saving and retirement accounts.

I've also finally been able to see another primary care physician, even after starting my new job in December of 2013 and having insurance on my very first day of work, I couldn't bring myself to see another physician until April of 2014. My new physician ran a battery of tests and I'm happy to report my iron and blood platelet levels are fine and she has made no mention of it being an issue since.

I trusted Dr. Lockwitz and assumed that when he referred me to his physician that he was assembling a team of experts to help me. It's sad to think I may never know the answer but I rejoice in being a survivor for so many of his patients weren't provided the same opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Woods

Patient's Name: James Alexander Siwiecki Relationship to Patient: Wife

Contact Phone Number: 248-227-3765

E-Mail Address: OLDE TOWNE HOD COMCOST, Net

Begin your Victim Impact Statement here and attach additional sheets as necessary.

In regards to Dr. Fata,

He knowingly put my husband through unnecessary and cruel cancer treatments which caused suffering and unwarranted sickness all for financial gain. His abuse also caused a false sense of hope in his recommendation of a liver transplant that he kept postponing stating he is waiting to get approval from the board (which never existed). He continued to give my husband bi-weekly treatments even sending him home hooked up to a portable chemo bag during his end of life time when he was only 97 pounds and was weak and could hardly walk. Our family trusted Fata and his treatment decisions and ultimately my husband suffered terribly. Fata must be held accountable.

My Victim's Impact Statement

Since my discovery (8 Aug 2013) of receiving prolonged over treatments (78 cycles too much) with chemotherapy, and other toxic unnecessary infusions (zommeta, iron shots, araness, etc) administered by Dr. Fata, caused me to be admitted into the hospital numerous times in year 2011. Learning later that I was "o-ding" from the over treatments from the toxic treatments. When all along, my cancer was eradicated on CT-Scan dated, Jan 04, 2011, since my diagnosis 29 Sep 2010.

Remembering back to my first day (4 Oct 2010) of receiving a combined treatment of chemo and radiation. Dr. Fata provided a written script for work, requesting that I take a year leave from work, indicating the treatments will be aggressive and overwhelming causing you to become very fatique, weak, sleepy, confused, anxiety and painful. But better yet he says.... fill out disability papers and retire. So as requested by Dr. Fata, I submitted my papers in for disability retirement.

As a Buyer (Contract Specialist), for the US Army-tank Automotive Command of 33 years that paid very well and had no intentions of leaving my position 6 years earlier than planned. I started with the gov't when I was 16 years old and now I'm collecting disability. Since his arrest (06 Aug 2013), both mentally and financially crippled, and have developed 5 to 8 lesions (tiny ulcers), my mind is not clear, confused at many times, loss of memory, temper-mental, coughing spells for no known reason, per doctors, along with a small hernia in my esophagus, withdrawn from society and don't trust doctors at all. My eyesight has been damaged...

....I can't see without wearing my glasses, with constant headaches and not being able to sleep at night.

I just want me back. I live in fear every day, unknowingly what organs will eventually shut down due to the prolonged over treatments. I look above and see black clouds that continue to follow me, but strangely and terrible it sound, I actually pray for Dr. Fata that our good Lord will forgive him. As I continue to live each day in fear......, I pray that God will heal all of us "mentally and physically" quickly, so that we can move forward and put this journey behind us.

Cathy Bastian 248-650-3013

Hello,

I was encouraged to send my brother's story to you. I live in Phoenix, but my family is in Michigan. My brother, Douglas R Shepard (now deceased), was one of Fata's former patients. My Dad who is 82 and my other brother, Bruce, and his family all live in Waterford. I am the only one on the Facebook site and have been trying to keep up on what is happening with his case. Fairly early in the process, I did receive his records from the FBI.

Doug had been having some undiagnosed health issues since the Fall of 2009. Then my mother's health declined and she passed away in April of 2010. Just two months later, my brother Doug was diagnosed with cancer. He was told that the cancer was between the lung and the esophagus. Needless to say, it was quite a blow to our family, but we remained optimistic that he could fight it, beat it, and move on with his life. He was doing chemo at the Clarkston location and was also doing radiation. Initially, he continued to work, but pretty quickly went on long term disability from his job at GM. Doug also suffered from diabetes, so the toll all of this took on his body was pretty immense, but he remained optimistic through it all and kept a strong will to live. These treatments continued up until he became extremely weak and went into the hospital in February, 2012, only to learn that he had suffered a mild heart attack. While in the hospital, he had yet another mild heart attack. He then learned that all of the chemo had burned a hole in his esophagus. During one of Dr Fata's visits with Doug in the hospital, my Dad was also present. At that visit, Dr Fata told my brother that the cancer was Stage 4 and it totally surprised Doug to learn that. My Dad said that Dr Fata seemed to be "backpeddling" and that it was my Dad's impression was that Dr Fata hadn't been straight with Doug in the past with regard to his condition. Just a few months before he passed away, Doug bought a new car because he thought he needed a new one for when he went back to work. I'm not sure if he was in denial and had a blind optimism, or if it was the result of Dr Fata not being straight with him. Based on what my Dad saw, the later is what I suspect. While I do believe that my brother did actually have cancer (as opposed to some of Fata's patients who did not have cancer but were given chemo anyway), I think that the amounts and frequency may have been too much and that he did not have good care. It was the chemo that eventually wrecked his body and caused the heart attacks and the hole in the esophagus.

On 3/24/12, we celebrated Doug's 54th and last birthday with him at St Joe Hospital. Two days later, he passed away.

Nancy Shepard Orbital Sciences Corporation 1440 N Fiesta Blvd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 Phone: 480-355-7853 My name is Tina Farrell and I was a patient of Dr. Fata's from September 2008 to August 2013. I was diagnosed in September 2008 with triple negative breast cancer, a rare aggressive breast cancer that only 15% of breast cancer patients get. I was only 42 years old. I was referred to Dr Fata in 2008 because my GYN and my primary doctor recommended him to me after my biopsy came back positive. They told me he was a very respected doctor and I would be well taken care of. In september 2008 I had a mastectomy with the start of reconstruction with a general surgeon at Crittenton Hospital and started chemo with Dr Fata a few weeks later. During my 6 months of chemo I researched triple negative cancer and was terrified, many woman didn't live past 5 years. It is a deadly disease. I asked Dr Fata if I needed radiation because my kind of cancer was so aggressive he said no. The next month I asked him again, he said no. I asked him towards the end of my chemo treatment because my Plastic Surgeon needed to know and he got very angry with me and said "you are over reacting about your triple negative status, you had mastectomy, you have no tissue left, you don't need radiation"!. So after he said that I felt like I still needed radiation but he was the oncologist and he was the most recommended one in my area so I never asked him again. The chemo was very tough to get through but I did it and I had surgery to finish my breast reconstruction with implants in 2009 and I thought I was on my way to recovery. Dr. Fata gave me a 89% chance of me making it to my 5 year mark and the cancer NEVER coming back. Exactly 2 years later from my cancer diagnosis I felt a lump on the top of my implant in my reconstructed breast in September 2010. I was so scared and I called Dr Fata's office right away. Dr Fata examined me and said it was probably just my implant leaking and sent me to have a breast MRI at Crittenten hospital. But it wasn't my implant leaking, it was cancer, the same cancer I had before, the deadly kind. I asked Dr fata how could this happen? He smiled at me and said "oh I knew you were going to ask me that, it just happens sometimes". I had to have start all over, 3 more surgeries, 16 more chemo treatments and 37 radiation treatments. The chemo was horrible, it wiped out all my blood counts and they had to reduce the strength because it was so strong. I couldn't get out of bed, I couldn't eat, I couldn't work, I couldn't participate in my 4 kids activities at school, I missed out on a lot and I felt like I couldn't go on. I was so sick and had to be at his office 3, sometimes 4 times a week. I had chemo treatment day, hydration day, the appointment day and iron infusion day all in the same week. Dr Fata said I had to have 5 weeks of iron infusions, he said my iron was too low so I had to endure being poked with an needle 4 times a week for 5 weeks. The running back and forth to his office was exhausting, time consuming and expensive.. It was so hard to go to his office so much. I had to wait 3 hours in the exam room just to see him. I was weak, tired and sick and had to sit, scared, waiting for 3 hours. Finally after 8 surgeries, 22 chemo treatments, 22 hydration treatments, 5 weeks of Iron treatments and 37 radiation treatments were over, I thought I could start my life again and recover after 3 years of this ordeal. I continued to see Dr.Fata every 3 months and in 2013 I hit my 5 year mark from my original diagnosis. I had an appointment with Dr fata on May 9,2013 and he said I HAD to have a PET scan and his office scheduled one for me for August...I remember seeing him write in the diagnosis box on the order form "new hip pain" as an explanation of why I needed the PET scan. I thought that was odd since I had had the same hip pain since I started chemo in 2008, my hip pain was more painful from all the chemo but i didnt think I needed a PET scan. DR. FATA said I HAD to have the PET scan. I told him I wanted to go to Crittenton hospital and he said no, his machine at his office was much better and he said I HAD to have it there. I really didn't want to drive all the way to his office for the PET scan but he insisted. I really didn't want to have the PET scan, it gave me anxiety just thinking about it. A week before I was to have the PET scan I found out Dr fata was arrested for fraud. I was shocked, confused, overwhelmed and scared. I was supposed to have that PET scan he said I had to have the next week. I had to find a new doctor quickly and after researching I found an expert in triple negative breast cancer at the University of Michigan. I made an appointment and they reviewed my 600 pages of medical files the FBI took from Dr Fata's office. They told me that in my chart my pathogy report stated I had had positive margins in 2008 after my mastectomy surgery. The doctors at U of M told me that the positive margins contributed to my local recurrence of breast cancer in 2010. Positive margins means when they did my mastectomy surgery cancer was left behind in my body. When my surgeon cut out my tumor cancer was all the way to the edges of the tissue, there wasn't a 1 inch border like it is required to do. The 1 inch border is like a

garantee that they got all the cancer out and in my case they didn't. No one told me back in 2008 that I had positive margins, I was uneducated in cancer back then, I trusted my doctors and thought they were taking care of me. They left cancer in my body and it grew and grew for 2 years until I found it myself in 2010. I walked around all that time thinking I was cancer free and the cancer was growing inside me. My surgeon didn't tell me, Dr fata didn't tell me. Dr.Fata and my surgeon didn't even give me a pathology report. They didn't offer me more surgery to clean up the margins and Dr Fata refused to give me radiation. They didn't even give me a choice. They hid it from me. Did this happen on purpose, did Dr Fata want me to have to come back as a repeat customer and have more chemo and make him more money, is that why he refused to give me radiation? Or was Dr Fata so greedy that he had too many patients and couldn't keep track of what procedures his patients were supposed to have? If I wouldn't have found the lump myself the cancer would have spread all through my body because Triple Negative is very fast growing and agressive and I would have died at 44 yrs old. My kids would have lost their mom, my husband would have lost his wife and my parents would have lost their daughter. I did all the right things, I deserved better treatment, I trusted Dr fata. Dr fata gave these big lavish Survivor Day parties for his patients every June and my whole family would attend, My parents, my husband, my kids ages 24,21,13 and 10. How could Dr Fata look my kids In their eyes, shake my husband's hand, smile at my parents all the while knowing he did this horrible thing to me. He took a whole year away from me, a year I shouldn't have had to go through chemo treatments and surgeries again, a year where I suffered, my whole family was scared I wasn't going to make it through and we were financially devastated with medical bills. Medical bills that I shouldn't have had, extra surgeries, extra chemo, driving back and forth to his office every day, it all added up. I couldn't work in my licensed daycare for almost 2 years because I was so sick during this cancer Recurrence ordeal.. I had to close the doors. I could have lost my house, my family could have lost everything. My husband had to work 2 jobs so we could make it. It is not fair that Dr fata changed the course of my life and my family's lives because he was so greedy and didn't care about his patients. I wish I could have that year back, I wish me and my kids could have the time back that my husband had to work an extra job to make sure we had everything we needed, I wish I could forget all the horrible treatments treatments and tests I had to go through just to live and I wish I could take the pain and fear that my family went through and still go through because of Dr. Fata. I have serious side effects from the 16 extra chemo treatments that will be with me the rest of my life. I can only work part time now and that's even hard for me with all the side effects I have. I have damage to my ears, severe hip pain in both hips, and nerve damage in my hands and feet and damage to my teeth. I am only 48 years old, I should feel young not so tired and in pain all the time.

And the worst side effect I have is the mental stress I feel because I have the fear that my cancer can still come back because it wasn't taken care of the first time. My quality of life is not the same and it never will be. The doctors at University of Michigan said I should have had another surgery back in 2008 to clean up the margins and I should have been given the radiation I begged Dr Fata for and my cancer would have been gone. The doctors at U of M also told me I didn't need the 5 weeks of Iron treatments Dr Fata told me I had to have and now I wonder if that did any damage to my body. I didn't need the PET scan he said I HAD to have either and lucky for me he was arrested before my appointment. I found out from the criminal complaint that he was doing unnessary testing on his patients with his own equipment to make money from the insurance companies. Thats why he said I HAD to have the PET scan at his office not at the hospital. Also when Dr Fata was arrested it came out in the criminal complaint that he was possibly using people that were not doctors to exam patients to use up time in the 3 hours we had to wait for him to come in our room at our appointments. One of those male "fake" doctors did a breast exam on me in 2012. Now I don't even know if that man was a real doctor or not. I was alone in a exam room with that man, Dr.Fata didn't even care about my safety.

How could Dr fata let man that wasn't even a doctor touch my breasts, do you know how that makes me feel. It is sickening and horrific and it gives me nightmares. It is a criminal sexual assault against me, a breast cancer survivor. I feel like Dr Fata treated me like a dollar sign and not as a person. I was his patient for 5 years. I had so much faith and trust in him and he was a fake, a liar and a bad person. It is so hard to trust doctors now because of Dr fata and it will take a long time to trust again. Why did dr fata do

this, why did he mistreat me, why? I want answers. I want Dr Fata held accountable. I feel Dr.Fata owes me for the peace of mind he took away from me, the time he took away from me and my family and also my daycare business and for the pain he caused me. I want him to know that my 10 year old daughter sees him now on the news and I have to explain to her why my doctor hurt people, How do you explain to a 10 year old that a doctor could hurt people, I have no answers for her. She was only 4 years old in 2008 and her and my 3 sons have been through so much with this cancer ordeal the first time I was diagnosed and had to relive it all over again in 2010 with my recurrence and it is because of Dr.Fata. I have so much anger towards Dr. Fata, I didn't even get a " I'm sorry Tina, we messed up in 2008 and we left cancer in your body and we didn't tell you" from Dr Fata. NO, Dr fata let me believe it was my body's fault. He told me "sometimes these things just happen". Well, a tumor sitting on top of my implant in a tiny piece of fat all by itself doesn't just happen, the cancer was left there, LEFT THERE. Dr fata did nothing about it, Dr fata didn't help me, Dr fata didn't tell me, Dr fata didn't act like a doctor, Dr fata didn't care. HE was in charge of my medical case, in charge of my life at the time and his decisions could determine if I lived or died. He should have said "Tina you need more surgery, you need radiation, the cancer is still there" But no, those positive margins were a guaranteed way I would be back again at his office in a few years and he would make more money off of me and my insurance. No doctor just forgets that one of his patients has positive margins, that I had cancer quickly growing inside me. Maybe I should just feel lucky I am alive after all that I have been through but I am broken because of Dr. Fata. I went through horrible things, life altering things I shouldn't have had to go through because of him and so did my family. We had to struggle financially when I should have been full filling my dream of having a licensed daycare. Dr. Fata took a whole year of my life away where I should have been happy and healthy instead I was laying in bed fighting for my life. That's why I feel Dr fata should spend 1,200 lifetimes in prison, each life for every patient he mistreated and hurt. He victimized sick helpless trusting people and I was one of them. My oldest son said it perfectly, he said 'I used to look up to Dr fata as a hero, now I see him as a monster.." Dr. Fata didn't save my life like doctors are supposed to do dealing with cancer patients, by not telling me about my positive margins and not giving me radiation, he almost ended my life.

October 29, 2014

Linda R. Klinkenberger, 5219 Wyndham Place, Fenton, MI 48430

Judge Borman, 231 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226

To Your Honor,

Please except my Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to represent what has taken place in the lives of the victim, Jack Klinkenberger and his family. Jack has passed away but myself and our family needs to express what impact this crime has had on us during, after and still yet today.

Jack Klinkenberger who was my husband whom I have known for more than 42 years passed away August 17, 2013 less than two weeks after doctor Fata was arrested. The news of what Dr. Fata was doing to his patients came too late for us to change the final outcome on Jack's life. But, if the correct actions are taken on this crime it will not be too late for others; no others should go through a crime like this.

Jack trusted Dr. Fata "completely" and even though he was very weak and sick from all the medicines that were given so often, Jack thought it was probably right. If we would have known sooner Jack may still be here with me and our family. Dr. Fata always gave a high percentage rate that Jack would recover and hope was always there with Dr. Fata.

Jack was diagnosed on February 10, 2012 and then was sent directly to St. Joseph hospital in Pontiac, no going home, just go straight to the emergency room. Jack was there for about 10 days. When he was released from the hospital we went to Dr. Fata's office in Rochester Hills for treatment on our way home immediately. Dr. Arterbery, the radiation oncologist started the procedure for radiation and Dr. Fata started chemo treatments. We didn't even have any time to digest what was discovered and what options do we have. The scare tactics were in place, Jack couldn't even think of doing anything else. Too scared to move, so he stayed with Dr. Fata.

For me it is very lonely and scary to live alone. Not just in our home, but in every aspect of making decisions alone and taking care of everything (home, car, bills, medical, etc.) alone. Many things have broken since Jack passed away and alone I had to figure out how to have them repaired and not to be taken advantage of because I am alone.

There are many days of crying and blaming myself; all the "ifs" what if I could have changed anything, what if I had done anything different, what if I could have forced Jack to go somewhere else, what if I had convinced Jack to seek out another opinion? Jack would still be here. Because there was no "if" that took place, I'm going on without a husband, my children without their father and the grandchildren who will not know or remember grandpa.

Financially I am trying to figure out how to pay the bills with less income. At 64 I had to return to work to try and make ends meet! What a challenge to go to work every day and deal with all the emotions of losing my husband and being alone while trying to work. It is a drain on every aspect of my life and unless you've been through this you would not understand. It feels like there is "no way out", I can't handle it all alone.

I do not trust the medical profession now. It's impossible to know if any doctor really has your best health as his/her interest or are all those appointments just to line their pockets? I have no idea how long it will take to regain any trust or if it will ever come back.

I'm hoping and praying the court will punish and sentence Dr. Fata to the fullest extent of the law. Please make sure he will never get out and have any opportunity to take advantage of the sick and their medical insurance company not to mention the thousands that come from our own pockets.

In closing, throughout this VIS I called Farid Fata doctor but in reality I no longer have any respect for him or his credentials and to not consider him a doctor. He is a criminal who took advantage of the weak, sick, elderly and many were poor and on Medicaid.

Thank you sincerely,

Linda R. Klinkenberger

Linda R. Klinkenberger

To whom this matter concerns: I am writing you to express my frustration at the damage one Farid Fata has done to my life. My mother was sent to see him when it was learned she had a form of cancer. She was given chemo. While she was on chemo she was not feeling well but was told this was normal for someone going through chemo. On March 1, 2010 my mother was so weak she fell and was unable to get herself off the floor. She was hospitalized for 4 months. After she got out and went to see Farid Fata, he told her he wanted to start her on radiation treatments. Luckily due to scheduling conflicts she never started them. Soon after we learned that my father had cancer due to 50 years of smoking. Wanting to be near his family during treatment he asked my mother (his ex wife) the name of the doctor she had seen. Not knowing the true nature of Farid Fata she have his name. When my father says Fata he was told that he needed to begin treatments IMMEDIATELY. He was placed on a VERY aggressive routine. It was during this time that I began to wonder about the HIGH number of office visits required of my father. Just did not seen right going so often. Although it might seen petty to some one thing my father prided himself on was that his hair always look just right. This was the first thing chemo took from him. Next was his vim and vigor, as he felt rundown and ill due to the chemo Fata was giving him. The thing that upsets me most is that my father got to the point where he was unable to eat anything as he said "Everything tastes like cardboard." My father was a strapping man before he went under Fata's care. But due to all that happened to him he went from wearing XL sized shirts to where most M shirts were baggy on him. My father was admitted to the hospital on May 24, 2012 and we were forced to disconnect life support, as were my father's wishes, on May 27. Now my danky and I are left to wonder if my father really even needed Fata's chemo or was he robbed of his quality of life? Lawmakers I ask that you make it impossible for this to happen again. Please pass their bills you have before you that ensure doctors are held to answer for their actions. Please make it so ANY doctor who is found guilty is UNABLE TO BE A **DOCTOR AGAIN!!!**

Gregory A. Cadd

November 13, 2014

Sydney Zaremba Witness Statement

I would like to thank the members of the Senate Health Policy Committee who are here today to review and hopefully, pass this proposed legislation. I would also like to thank the House for unanimously supporting it.

My statement is not just for my wonderful Mom, Helene Zaremba, who we lost as a result of the greed of Farid Fata, but for all victims and families who have been affected because of this horrible wrongdoing by a person who we should have been able to trust. The doctor.

My Mother had Stage 1, Large Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, with only 1 tumor and no bone marrow involvement. We were advised by Fata that my Mom's disease was very treatable and potentially curative. You can imagine how wonderful my Mom, sister and I felt knowing that she could be better by Christmas and maybe even cured. When we mentioned a second opinion, Fata advised us that we really didn't have time as this was a very aggressive cancer and waiting would mean it could potentially spread. The next week she began her chemo-therapy treatments.

Though my Mother was 87 and only 104 lbs. when she started treatment, she was very healthy and rarely took any medication other than an aspirin or vitamins and a blood thinner she was on because of her pacemaker. Mom was a nurse in her own professional life, registered through the State of Michigan from 1961 until to 2005. Throughout her nursing career, Mom helped many people. She worked at Pontiac General Hospital, for a private practice physician and also did private duty nursing. Later, she worked in a nursing facility helping the sick and elderly and taking midnight and weekend shifts so that other nurses could have the more desirable shifts and spend time with their young families. She was loved and trusted by those she worked for and with. My Mom was our mentor and example. She took care of my Father, who was a Type 1, brittle Diabetic, throughout their 45 year marriage and was always complemented by my Dad's doctors on the fact that he did so well because of the care Mom provided. My Dad trusted my Mom. Along with my Dad, she raised 3 daughters, was active in the church and community clubs and was the neighborhood Mom who helped kids with their problems. They trusted her. I'll never forget when one of my friends who had become pregnant as a teen and was going to give her up child, came to talk with my Mom. Mom convinced her to keep her child. She told my friend that if she gave up her baby, she would always wonder where that baby was and would always be looking for him or her. My friend trusted my Mom, had her baby son and went on to marry and have 4 additional children and now grandchildren of her. Mom also took care of her own parents, my Grandma and Grandpa, who lived with us until their deaths. They trusted her. She was the person who was always there when someone was sick or in need. In her later life, our Mom was healthy and vibrant and enjoyed senior life where she had her own 2 bedroom apartment in independent living in Rochester. There, she was in the choir, attended exercise classes 5 days a week, enjoyed all the outings they went on and developed many friendships. Her friends trusted her. She was a Mom, Grandma and Great-Grandma. She loved her family and friends as they loved her. She lived life to the fullest. And she trusted her doctor.

By the time our Mom was to have her 3rd chemo treatment she had a severe rash and began getting infections. Her chemo continued with no pre-chemo visit to Fata. Despite the fact that she was becoming more and more ill, he always saw her the week after her treatments. When we inquired about

him seeing her ahead of time and observing how ill she had become, we were told the protocol was that he would see her in a week. She became more and more ill and though we also inquired about stopping her chemo, he continued. Fata was highly touted by other doctors and since we had no previous experience with cancer of this kind, we trusted him and that he knew what he was doing. Boy, did he ever! He also continued to prescribe various medications and many.

Our Mom was also shocked at how ill she had become and by October, she required 24 hour care and could not tell which of her daughters was which. She could barely breathe and had to be on oxygen 24/7 the last two weeks of her life. I will never forget how scared she was when we had to move her from chair to bed. She could not breathe. The woman who never took a pill was prescribed 16 pills per day on Fata's watch and her life was being taken away day by day. Our beautiful Mom was gone in 3 months.

You see, I believe my Mom should have been able to beat her illness as she was otherwise strong. And if she was going to die, it should have been by God's way, not Fata's way.

Fata took an oath. He broke that oath.

I can never have my Mother back again, but by imposing the permanent revocation of the licenses of those committing these fraudulent, deceitful and damaging acts upon others for financial gain, I'm hoping a light will go on, minimizing the risk for these activities and saving the lives of the vulnerable. This would serve as a guarantee that those who commit this wrong doing would never be able to harm anyone again through the licensed practice of medicine. By ensuring that the perpetrators license would never be reinstated, it will also make those entertaining these illegal behaviors think twice before acting.

Along with this legislation, we need to ensure that there is additional protection for the patient should a medical professional be taking advantage of them. I myself would like to see two things. First, annual, bi-annual or more frequent audits of the billing practices of all medical professionals and those in the healthcare industry. This should not be the fox guarding the henhouse, but rather a reputable source conducting the process. I'm not sure if this is being done, but from all the cases of convicted fraud listed on the Department of Justice website, it does not appear to be happening. Think of the millions (perhaps billions) of dollars that could be saved. While expenses would be incurred to implement this process, I would much rather see the money going to the practice of auditing rather than lining the pockets of the unethical. Next, in all medical offices and in those facilities working with the elderly or vulnerable I would like to see signs posted indicating a phone number to call if the patient/client feels that are not receiving appropriate treatment. This would further remind those working with the sick and wounded or weak of the ethical obligations of their position.

Again, this will never bring our wonderful, beautiful, loving Mom, Helene Zaremba, back to us, but perhaps those affected by Fata mainly the victims and their families can find a bit of justice through changes to this legislation.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Angela C Swantek RN BSN OCN 428 Normandy Rd Royal Oak, MI 48073

Dear Honorable Members of Health Care Policy Committee

I am honored to have this opportunity to share what has been a concern of mine for 4 years now. I am not here to place blame on anyone, only to shed some light on obvious flaws in the state of Michigan's Public Health Code.

On March 31st 2010 I interviewed at Dr Farid Fata's Rochester office for a position as an infusion nurse. I asked if I could come back and spend some time with his staff to see how the office operated prior to making my decision to work there. I went back Friday morning April 2 2010. I arrived at 8:30am and by 10:00 I was running out of the office. There were 16-17 chemotherapy chairs in the infusion room and each one was full. I spent time with nurse CG who was the nurse in charge. I observed a few things being done that I thought were odd. Of course I questioned everything only to get a poor response back. After 20 minutes I had already made my decision that I would not take the job there and switched gears to trying to figure out what was going on at this office. I saw several chemotherapy drugs that were being given inappropriately which can affect the effectiveness of the medication. I saw chemotherapy being disposed of incorrectly which is a violation of OSHA. I saw other medications being given not how they are suppose to and patients getting IV hydration because "it made them feel better" not because it was medically necessary. I thanked CG for allowing me to spend time at the office but that I was trained differently and this would not be a good fit. I knew what his intention of giving the chemotherapy incorrectly was, it was to bill the insurance companies for more money. There are billing codes for time spent in the chair and something that takes 60 minutes gets higher reimbursement then something that is 20 minutes.

I printed out the allegation form from the Department of Health and Human services website and wrote out specifically what I observed even naming 2 of the medications I saw being given incorrectly, Velcade and Neulasta and sited how they are suppose to be given. I sited the OSHA violations. I made sure to state that at the time I had 19 years of oncology experience. I put in the allegation twice that he was harming patients. I suggested that he be investigated by Medicare and BCBS because I knew he was bilking them for money. The form is dated April 14 2010. In May 2011 I received a letter back from the state saying there was no violation of the public health code and that the case was closed. Honestly I didn't know what to think because I had no knowledge of the whole process since this was the first time in my 20 year career as a nurse that I turned in a physician.

Fast forward 3 years and when I heard that Fata's offices were being raided by the FBI for Medicare fraud I began to cry. And then all the evidence came out that not only was he defrauding the insurance companies by over billing or billing for services and treatments that were medically unnecessary but also treating patients who did not have a cancer diagnosis. What did the FBI see that the state of Michigan failed to see? Fata pled guilty in federal court to giving 5 drugs, Velcade and Neulasta, 2 of the drugs I mention in my allegation, unnecessarily. I know Oncology is a very complex field and there are many nurses and doctors who have limited knowledge in that field, I however have my certification in Oncology. If the state had any

question about what I wrote or what I observed in his office that morning I would have been more than happy to help in any way I could.

The bills HB5038-5042 appear to be helpful, but what is anyone doing about the investigation process? Given the Dr Fata scenario if these bills were in place would these bills have changed the outcome? The state of Michigan failed these patients and families by not protecting them from a doctor who did not have their best interest or health in mind. I handed Dr Fata to the state on a silver platter and nothing was done. There is an obvious hole in the public health code, and I understand no one could ever imagine a doctor doing something like this, but the whole process of how an allegation is handled needs to be dissected and that is where a change needs to be made. The people of Michigan should not have to rely on the FBI to police the health care providers licensed in Michigan, otherwise why do we have a medical board in the first place. It should be mandated that LARA contact the person who made the allegation and documented as such, even when the document is received. After an investigation is done LARA should be required to contact the person via phone or mail of what the results were. This gives the person a chance to elaborate on any confusion or lack of knowledge or understanding that their may be. This can give the investigator a chance to make a second visit if needed prior to closing a case. Before we can move forward to make sure this never happens again, we need to take a step back and see how this man was able to destroy so many lives for so long. With Fata's guilty plea I think it is right and fair for the people to have access to the investigation that was allegedly done on Fata in 2010. As a licensed health care professional in Michigan, I have lost faith in the regulatory system, lets work together to get that back.

To whom it may concern,

When my oncologist told me that my cancer needed treatment, I asked my primary care Dr. to recommend somewhere for me to have treatment that was close to my home. The reason being, I'm full time caregiver to my husband, who suffers with Alzheimers. Well, she sent me to Dr. Fata's cancer center. I was pleased to have this center so close to home. It meant I didn't have to be away from my husband too long.

I finished the chemo treatments with Dr. Fata, and was feeling pretty good now that they were behind me. The treatments made me sick and non-functional. It was very hard for me to care for my husband, but I did.

Six months after my chemo treatments I got a call from Fata's office, telling me that it was time for more treatments. Because my cancer is "Cronic," it sounded reasonable to me. He was arrested the day after my 5th treatment. Now I know that chemo should never be giving during remission.

It was about a week later when I started having nerve pain in my legs. I have been in pain ever since.

I had always been strong and healthy. This pain has changed my life. It has added so much stress to my already stressful job of caring for my husband. This should never happen again.

Sincerely,

Doris Ann Pennala

Cheryl Blades 6441 Logan Waterford, MI 48329

Dear Honorable Health Policy Committee Members

On January 17, 2011 my mom Nancy A. LaFrance was diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma(this was the second occurrence, she was 72 years old and still worked full time). She had surgery to remove the cancer in February of 2011; we had a few scares in the hospital due to her blood pressure issues. We scheduled her first appointment with Dr. Fata and he had asked for the family to be there for a meeting. This concerned us because he hadn't done that before (in 2007). We came as a family and had a lot of questions to ask. He went through the course of treatment, which was very different from the first time he treated her. I questioned him on several occasions why he was changing the medication when it worked the first time. She was only on Chemo for 6 months and then was cancer free for almost 3 years. Why change it if its not broken? He stated that this was a new regimen that he and his colleagues discussed and was the best treatment for her. I stated that I was not comfortable with changing because it worked the first time and he got very irate with me(that upset my mom, so I tried to keep to myself, because her health was more important). When then started to discuss having the port put in and I requested that the surgeon worked for put the port in and he again got very irate with me stating that his doctor needed to put it in, again my mom was still in a lot of pain from her recent surgery and I did not want to upset her anymore so I backed off.

My mom started her treatments (weekly chemo and 5 days a week of radiation began a few weeks after chemo) by the beginning of March and was still in a lot of pain. She called Fata on several occasions to ask him if this was normal and he told her it was and he prescribed more pain medication and xanax. During her treatment this time several things kept going wrong. She was much sicker this time, multiple bladder infections, intestinal infections and was even hospitalized with MERSA(per the nurse, still don't have hospital records and Fata did not have any records from the hospital in her file). Through out her treatment she was getting weekly hydration, and Iron injections. Her last blood draw showed her Ferritin level was over 1500 (normal is 18-160). Obviously she did not need the iron injections. In June the Radiologist Dr. Arteberry decided that she was going to stop the radiation treatment because it was to close to her spine(but in her records she states that it was because she was not responding to treatment, her record was not signed by Arterberry until after my mother passed away in 2012)Her last chemo treatment was on July 5, 2011. The following weekend she was not feeling well and very week as she was walking into her kitchen she fell over a small step and broke her hip and had to have a complete hip replacement. She was treated for this near her home in West Branch Michigan and was immobile for many weeks unable to receive treatment. On August 16th she had another pet scan done to see how she was doing without treatment. On August 20th she had a really bad headache and slipped in to a coma state, once she arrived to the hospital they did a scan and she had a brain bleed. Could this have been from her medication or was this from the much Ferritin? We will never know. On August 23 my beautiful mother passed away and there are a lot of questions that went unanswered. Was she treated properly?

On August 6th everything got turned around Fata was arrested for healthcare fraud and mistreating patients. All the wounds of loosing my mom were opened again. In September of 2013 I received my mom's records from the FBI. I sat down with Angela Swantek and she went through my moms records only to find out that the regimen that he put my mom on was not for lung cancer at all. He never treated my moms lung cancer, he was just pumping her with medication for the money. If he had treated her would she still be alive.

In April of 2010 Angela Swantek had filed a complaint with allegations of mistreating patients to LARA/St of Michigan. The state found no violation of the public health code. The stated failed to find in 2010 what the federal government found in 2013. If the state had done a thorough investigation could my mom still be alive. Could many of our loved ones still be alive? I personally feel that the state of Mi has failed us and those that we responsible for this investigation should be sitting with Fata in jail. You could have saved many people from suffering and needless pain.

I'm very happy to see that you are now looking into changing the laws for doctors and healthcare providers. But you need to also make everyone in healthcare accountable. I urge you to continue your efforts in strengthening laws and policy to protect patients from doctors and other health professionals who misuse their powers and their privileges.

Kind Regards Cheryl Blades Waterford Mi How do you handle hearing the words "You have Cancer?" That is what Fata told me I had after he put me through 2 Bone Marrow Biopsies which really hurt. In fact it was Multiple Myeloma he said. I was devastated and my wife who went to every appointment with me was in worst shape. All I could think about was how is she going to handle it? I worried about her having to do everything herself with out my help. She had been through enough with me going to each appointment, waiting on me when I couldn't do anything myself when my back went out and here I was leaving her with more to do. I just hated myself and all I could ask was Why Me? Fata told us that I would need Infusions of Zometa every 28-30 days and would be on it for the rest of my life. After a couple of months my health problems started. Fata had me go and get acupuncture from the guy in his office, it cost me \$90.00. Then he sent me for 15 rounds of radiation treatment. I was getting Zometa Infusions every 28-30 days with a few Iron infusions and Hydration Infusions put in there. I was traveling and wasting gas and I asked why we could not do a couple of infusions on the same day and he said the insurance company would not allow it. It was more time in his chair so he could charge for it more often.

My jaw and teeth were hurting and I would tell Fata about it and he would say he didn't know why they hurt and the infusions had nothing to do with it. I had developed a case of real bad dry mouth and had to have water with me 24/7. I was really tired and weak plus I had uncontrollable twitching in my legs, arms and hands. He still said maybe it was something to do with the medication I was on and that the Zometa Infusions had nothing to do with that. As time went on I developed Peripheral Neuropathy in both legs and feet. My foot doctor told me I had no nerve endings from my knees to my toes and that was what

caused the pain and the cramping in my toes, feet and legs. She had never seen it come on so fast as this did and even though I was a slight diabetic with type 2 it should not have happened. I was falling apart with pain but it was not the Zometa Infusions that were causing it Fata said. Around July 2013 I had a tooth break off at the gum and I asked Fata and he said he could not imagine what would cause that.

Well he got arrested in August 2013 and I was having more and more problems. My teeth were falling out or breaking off at the gums, I even had one that came out with the socket and all. It had put a hole through my Jaw and into my sinuses so I would drink and it would come out my nose.

I had to go find another doctor because I was due for another infusion of Zometa. The new doctor looked at my records and said I did not need the Zometa Infusions. In fact if I had got anymore Iron Infusions I could really have some health issues and that he did not know what Fata gave me but there is no such thing as Hydration Infusions for dry mouth. And why he sent me for radiation was confusing, But he did say the four magic words "You do not have any Cancer" and it did feel good but the damage was already done. There was so many things happen to me during that 2 ½ years being treated by Fata. I had lost my insurance for 3 months so I had to pay Fata for those infusions of Zometa and the chair time. We are living on a fixed income so we had to pay him what we could every month. It came to about \$1500.00 a month.

By then I was so mad at Fata, if I had seen him I don't know what I would have done. The depression set in because I had practically no teeth and could not eat very much. I didn't know what to do as I hated to go out in public so people would see me. I did not know how my wife felt about

me being like I was and that depressed me more, about that time I had some very stupid thoughts and now I thank God I did not follow through with any of them. My wife and I started to drift apart and stopped talking to each other and that really hurt inside and my hatred for Fata knew no bounds. She said she was OK but I could see that she wasn't and it was tearing her up to see me like this and that there was nothing she could do.

I finally had to go to the U of M school of Dentistry to get whatever teeth I had left and cut out the chunks left from the ones that broke off. No other dentists would do anything because of the Infusions of Zometa I had received. When the U of M was working on my jaw and teeth they had a surgeon fix the hole in my jaw by slicing my cheek inside and laying it over the hole then sew it up. The only thing they could do and they left two eye teeth in so maybe they could be used to anchor restorations to. After 3 months of healing I went back and they told me the last two teeth were just as bad as the first ones they took out. Almost a year later here I am without any teeth to chew with because I cannot afford the 40 to 50 thousand dollars it will take to get them fixed.

Here is where you have to ask yourself, What if that was me or someone I loved or one of my kids? What would you do and how would you handle it? That is why we need these Bills passed and there are more yet just so we can stop people like FATA from ever hurting anyone you love.

I want to thank you all for your time and I pray to God you see it in your hearts to pass these bills in front of you. He has hurt so many people and without the bills there may be others who would do the same thing knowing that nothing is going to happen to their license and they can go back to practicing. Thank you, Sincerely, Robert Sobieray

My name is Debbie Wagner. In May 2006 I had a biopsy done in Chesterfield, Missouri on a tumor in my chest. My family and I were in the process of moving to Rochester Hills, Michigan. The biopsy was positive for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Dr. Farid Fata was recommended to us by the pastor of our new church in Rochester Hills. I was diagnosed with classic Hodgkin's and Fata said I was stage 2a and would need 12 rounds of chemo, once every 2 weeks for the next 6 months, followed by radiation. I was 46 years old at the time. I am not going to go into the details of my treatment. Chemo sucks. That is all you need to hear from me on that. I trusted this man with my life. I thought that he wanted what I wanted, for me to be cured. I saw him every week for more than 6 months and than every few months, then less as time went on. He called me his "miracle patient". I can still hear his voice tell me in December of 2006 that I was "in complete clinical remission".

I will never forget the day he was arrested. It may sound silly, but I remember it like I remember 9/11. I was so deeply saddened and upset when I heard what he had done to so many desperate, vulnerable people.

I recently found out that I was given twice the amount of chemo that was required for my stage of cancer. As we speak, I remain in remission. I have 3 children. My oldest is getting married this June. What terrifies me is the future ramifications of the unnecessary chemo. I want to be around for all of my future grandchildren and 20 plus years from now, my great-grandchildren. I am a cancer patient whose doctor did not give a rat's behind about me, but who only cared apparently about a castle in Lebanon. And what I want to know is why this happened? Why were so many red flags ignored? So much suffering could have been avoided if someone listened to those who tried to tell the powers that be that something was wrong. The only peace that those of us who were victimized by this monster could ever find is in knowing that our suffering prevented others from going through what we did. Changes to the law MUST be made. And while I am on my soapbox, why has his wife not been charged?!!! Please do not let those that have suffered and died by his hand do so in vain.

Debbie Wagner

Good Morning Folks.

My name is Geraldine Parkin the virte of 1 of fata's many victims I am a lucky 1 my husband is still with us.

There are hundreds of victims: we are here today to be their voice. You have read several if not a dozen statements from wives, husbands, sons, daugthers, brothers, sisters: grand children along with victims themselves. So you know most of our sad stories.

This is why we are here today we put our lives? trust in doctors and if we cannot, who can we trust. This Bill will hopefully make them think twice before using their position to harm innocent people who trusted them. We are also here to encourage, you to push this Bill through so that our families? Yours are protected in the future, from doctors like fata who don't take their oath seriously? harm others.

We ask that any doctor that commits any type of crime have their license revoked permanently not just for a short period of time. No probation either.

Now before I pass the floor off to Sydney, a daughter of 1 of fatas victims.

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of you for ? taking time to read our statements? Instenting to us speak !

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and his treatments that all it is was imake ine sick and lick of imy life of started to drink again after 26 years I being clean and soler. I crage how fast you fall back to you old ways ino imatter how I you are. I was lucky of did a way out (Rehab.) But it took him 5 go To Jail Fata IN aug of 2013. Went To Rehab in OCT 2013.

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11-13-2014

My Name is Jerry Spenlerk This is imy story and 5 years of Chemo with DRFATA I now call FATA le is ino Doctor he is a killer. I had two different Doctors recommed FATA to une of was told he is the Best By Biopsy showed at had NHL NON-Hodgkins Lymphoma el went to Fata had MOTE TEST done in May of 2008 My Tumor was growing fast dayly FATA said I was stage 4 NHL el had cancer evenwhere in imy body by the time of april to July emy tumor had grown from something the size of from the top of imy can to emy sholder hugh soured ine to death it, was hard to see emy wife & sids look at ime than were emore scared than el was on June 25 cmy I grandson was born on June 26 of had cancer, MHL comformed in July 6 of had my Port put in on gerly 7 of had my first Chamo ON December 20 d was in remission great he saved iny life

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ite more two and a half years into it FATA Told ME at This point its Life Time Treatments, STILL Sick Cold, FLH, COPD, PNEUMONIA, ChroNic Browd LOST MY Home, cars, way of Life allgone NO JOB NO MONEY (WE WERE a 2 INCOME House) My 50,000 + year Job gone of thank god for what we had left a had my first Drink in 26 years alm inot, going to say of was a drunk but of could inst dep drinking so mow a feel de really in trouble devas getting help went to a PSYCHIATEIST Now alm on drugs DEPOKOTE, ZOIOFT, Jack Daviels Just Like 1983 all over again

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